

cause alive. The trial now is important because it reminds us of the high price of freedom and who has paid that price.

Emmett Till's case has been reopened and this reopening is important for the same reason. He was 14 years old in 1955 when on a visit to his relatives in Mississippi he was kidnapped from his uncle's house. When Emmett Till's body was found and returned to his mother in Chicago, it was so disfigured from beating and torture that his mother almost didn't recognize him. She refused offers from the funeral home to clean up his battered body. For his funeral, she insisted on an open casket. The two men tried for the murder were acquitted by a jury of 12 white men. However in a 1956 article in *Look* magazine, these two men confessed to Emmett Till's brutal murder. The article, pictures of Emmett Till and the confessions reenergized the Civil Rights movement. People all over America were outraged. Artistic works drawing on the incident included the first play by eventual Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, a poem by Langston Hughes and a song by Bob Dylan.

On May 10, 2004, the United States Department of Justice announced that it would reopen the case, an action that many had been calling for to determine if others had been involved in the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till. In October 2004, the Justice Department confirmed it was focused on two people who had not been charged in the original trial. On June 1, 2005, the body of Emmett Till was exhumed. Through the work of many people, Black and White, this child's killers may finally be brought to justice.

On June 13, 2005, the Senate apologized for refusing in the past to make lynching a federal crime. This was an important vote for the Senate to take. It shows that we as Americans can recognize and take responsibility for terrible mistakes of our past.

It also reminds us that the Underground Railroad was "illegal" and many who helped slaves to freedom broke the law. Slaves were property and were expected to be returned to their owners if discovered attempting to run away. The Fugitive Slave Act voted into Law on August 26, 1850 made anyone who hindered a slave catcher, attempted the rescue of a recaptured fugitive, directly or indirectly assisted a fugitive to escape, or harbored a fugitive, liable to a fine of up to one thousand dollars and six months' imprisonment, plus damages of one thousand dollars to the owner for each slave that was lost. Even with the enactment of the law, the Underground Railroad continued its work.

Now we know the crime was slavery. Just as we now recognize lynching was a heinous crime, we must come to see that the laws of the day contributed to the oppression of the Black race by the White majority.

The truth is always important no matter when we learn it. We thank Fergus M. Bordewich for his excellent history of the Underground Railroad.

Reviews of "Bound for Canaan" from *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, *Publishers Weekly*, and other publications have given this book high praise.

John J. Miller of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote Fergus M. Bordewich "has written an excellent book that is probably as close to a definitive history as we are likely to see."

Cornell West, University Professor of Religion, Princeton University, and author of

"Race Matters" wrote "This is a masterful story—a deeply American story— of the quest for freedom. This multi-racial movement is still a beacon of hope in our present dark times."

For today, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we reflect on the importance of the racially integrated Civil Rights movement that began with the Underground Railroad and continues today. The men and women who challenged slavery, the policy of segregation, and the policies of racism should be commended for their deeds. They should have the full appreciation of this Nation. Mr. Fergus M. Bordewich deserves the thanks of this Nation for an important book on the history of the first racially integrated civil rights movement in this country.

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 140th anniversary of Juneteenth. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas with news of the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War. Although President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, it took almost two and a half years for the Proclamation to be enforced throughout all of the United States.

The 140th anniversary of Juneteenth is a significant milestone in American history. Juneteenth is a reference point from which to appreciate the progress made by African Americans in our society. The 140th anniversary coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and the 40th anniversary of Congressional enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

I would like to congratulate Representative DANNY DAVIS of Illinois for his resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth. As Representative DAVIS says, "History should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the future." As we look back and honor the past, let us celebrate the progress we have made as a Nation.

The Voting Rights Act, arguably the most successful piece of civil rights legislation ever, is set to expire in 2007. Congress and the President must reauthorize the act to ensure fairness in our political process and equal opportunity for minorities in American politics. Congress must also address the unfortunate disparities facing African Americans, which persist in every aspect of daily life. I congratulate my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus who have created an agenda to address these inequalities. We as Americans must work to eliminate injustices and move toward the goal of full equality.

COMMENDING AMERICANS WRITE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Americans Write, an organization that

is committed to helping the people of Northern Michigan contact their elected officials.

Americans Write builds on the success of other well-known national opinion ballot organizations, by incorporating issues of the day in its monthly newsletters. By focusing on issues that are most important to its recipients, Americans Write provides the opportunity and inspiration for individuals to engage in the democratic process.

It is important that all Americans become involved in our government, to ensure that their voices are heard. As Americans become increasingly busy, it becomes more important to have organizations like Americans Write to facilitate easy communication with their elected officials.

I commend Americans Write for their efforts in keeping representatives at every level of government apprised of the issues important to the American people.

A CALL FOR MORE THAN A SENATORIAL APOLOGY FOR NOT PASSING ANTI-LYNCHING LAWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to the Senate's apology for not passing anti-lynching legislation.

The Senate adopted a Resolution this week apologizing for its refusal to pass anti-lynching bills. It acted on June 13, 2005 to apologize for decades of failure to enact a law that would have stopped the systematic torture and murder of thousands; decades during which the U.S. Congress knowingly perpetuated the practice of lynching. Seven presidents asked Congress to outlaw lynching, almost 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced and the House passed anti-lynching legislation three times, but southern filibusters killed all three bills.

The Senate stood by as over 4,700 people, mostly African American, were reportedly lynched between 1882 and 1968. Victims of these horrific acts were subjected to public humiliation. Most were beaten and some were even burned alive amidst the cheering of racist mobs. Their bodies were often left hanging in their communities as a warning to other African Americans, emphasizing the purposeful use of violence and torture by the White majority in America as a tool of oppression of the Black minority.

Although the Senate is being praised for admitting one of the many injustices that have shaped this country, there is still more work to be done. Only 80 of the 100 senators cosponsored the resolution and the senators that did co-sponsor the resolution were able to avoid putting themselves on record because the resolution passed by voice vote. There still appears to be reluctance, even today, on the part of many senators to publicly apologize for the complicity of the Senate in allowing the perpetration of systematic acts of terrorism against African Americans.

Lynching has destroyed generations of African American families. Today, African American communities are still suffering at the hands of injustice. The increasing prison population, disparities in public schools and lack of access to healthcare services continue to dis-able African Americans. We must have the